

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121 as follows  
(see the accompanying "marked-up" version pursuant to §1.121):

On Page 6, bridging pages 7 and 8, delete the last paragraph and insert the following new paragraph:

FIG. 3 is a flow diagram that illustrates the setup of an exemplary virtual group 21 created at the server 101 for purchasing lottery tickets for a group of people according to the invention. To create the virtual group 21, group information for the purchasers is stored in the server 101 in step 301. The group information comprises, e.g., the member list 201, which includes biographical information for each of the purchasers in the group; the member e-mail 202, which includes electronic mail (e-mail) addresses for the purchasers (if any); the member tel 203, which includes the telephone numbers for the purchasers (if any); the member fax 204, which includes the fax numbers for the purchasers (if any); and the member cell 205, which includes the cellular telephone numbers for the purchaser (if any). In step 302, the lottery information with respect to the lottery tickets the purchasers desire to procure is stored in the server 101. The lottery information comprises, e.g., the lottery type 206, which includes the types of lottery tickets the purchasers desire to procure (e.g., the state lottery of any of the 50 states in the U.S. or the provinces of Canada, the

lottery sponsored by any U.S. territory, such as Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands); the purchase volume 207, which includes the number of lottery tickets the purchasers desire to procure; and the purchase interval 208, which includes the frequency of the lottery ticket purchases. In step 303, the number selection 209, which includes the manner and method for selecting entry numbers for the lottery tickets, is stored in the server 101 and confirmed. The number selection can include computer-generated random numbers at the server 101, arbitrary number selection per the purchasers' entry, random number selection from a fixed pool of numbers provided by the purchasers, number generation according to a predetermined number selection algorithm provided at the server 101 or selected by the purchasers, etc. In step 304, the distribution method 210, which includes the manner of delivering the lottery tickets to the purchasers (if needed); and the notice method 211, which includes the method of notifying the purchasers of the results of the lottery ticket drawings, are stored in the server 101 and confirmed. In step 305, the tracking interval 212, which includes the frequency of monitoring or tracking the results of the lottery ticket drawings, is stored in the server 101 and confirmed. In step 306, the payment method 213, which includes the method of payment designated by the purchasers, is stored in the server 101 and confirmed. The payment method can include credit cards, personal checks, wire transfer, automated payment and replenishment services such as EZPass™, online payment services such as PayPal™ or eBillPay™, etc. In step 307, the virtual group 21 is created at the server 101 according to the information